Bill to amend the Cochin Nayar Regulation.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—I move that the Bill to amend the Cochin Nayar Regulation as amended by this Council be taken up and passed.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—I second it.

Motion put and agreed to.

Questions and Answers.

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—I have got the information that the Member wanted about the discharge of this Abdul Rahiman. He was discharged in Kanni.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—There was no meeting in Kanni.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—The previous statement was a mistake.

President.—Does that show that Abdur Rahiman was released in Kanni?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—Yes. The first statement was a mistake. There was a meeting in Kanni.

Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—These are the adjourned meetings.

President.—The answer is correct. Then what about these Ouseph, Vaccoo Lonan and others? When are they going to be released?

Diwan Bahadur Dr. V. Verghese.—There will be a meeting on Kumbhom 20th, and their case will be considered, and they will be released.

Prevention of Cruelty to Animals Bill.

President.—Mr. K. T. Mathew is absent to move for leave to introduce the Bill.

Hence the motion was considered withdrawn.

Bill to amend the Cochin Code of Criminal Procedure.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I move for leave to introduce the Bill to amend the Cochin Code of Criminal Procedure.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I second it.

Motion put and agreed to.

Cochin Transfer of Property Bill.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I move for leave to introduce the Cochin Transfer of Property Bill.

Mr. T. A. Ramachandra Ayyar.—I second it.

Motion put and agreed to.

Cochin Small Holdings Bill.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—I move for leave to introduce the Cochin Small Holdings Bill.

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Mr. A. Eachara Menon.—I second it.

Mr. T. M. Krishna Menon.—Please give us an idea of the Bill.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—Why was it not printed?

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—It is only day before yesterday that final orders were passed by the President regarding the admissibility of this Bill.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—What about the Transfer of Property Bill?

Mr. T. K. Krishna Menon.—We could not get it printed as it was a bulky Bill.

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—The object of the Bill is to prevent excessive fragmentation of holdings and to consolidate small holdings in Cochin, the cultivation of which has become unprofitable and uneconomic. It is a long Bill which covers very nearly 70 sections.

Mr. P. Krishna Menon.—What is the minimum limit?

Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.—All these things will be fixed by committees to be appointed under the Regulation. For each village or firka a committee will be appointed under section 3 of the Bill, and the committee will determine the standard unit provisionally, and the Government will publish the standard unit if approved.

President.—It is also necessary to know what is the idea of the Bill. The objects and reasons are as follows: —

"The Linlithgow Royal Commission on Agriculture in India has observed as follows:—"A serious obstacle to agricultural improvements is, in some provinces, caused by the sub-division and fragmentation of holdings. Sub-division is chiefly due to the laws of inheritance customary amongst Hindus and Muhamadans which enjoins a succession to immovable property amongst all the heirs usually in equal shares. Fragmentation is, in the main, due not to the laws of inheritance but to the method by which the law as to division of property amongst the heirs is carried into effect. The problem is being attacked by the Co-operative Department in the Punjab, where some striking results have been achieved and by legislation in the Central Provinces. The latter method is also proposed in Bombay".

Considerable areas have been consolidated in Germany, France, Italy, Austria and other European countries. A Consolidation Act has been placed in the statute book in Baroda. In Cochin the sub-division of the holdings has been carried too far. The evils resulting from excessive sub-division and fragmentation may be briefly stated to be as follows:—"(a) They impede cultivation and cause a waste of time, (b) they prevent permanent improvements to land being undertaken, as it is impossible to use labour-saving implements or even iron ploughs on land which is broken up into scattered pieces, (c) they preclude the proper organization of labour and capital and cause a waste of a large amount of arable land in boundaries, (d) they prevent a cultivator from living on his farm, result in second crops not being grown when they can be, in some cases send the land out of cultivation altogether cause enmity amongst neighbours leading to quarrels and litigation, and

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generally speaking, produce an uneconomic situation. The excessive sub-division of land results in a general diminution of the crop-outturn".

The object of this Bill is to remedy these evils in so far as it is possible to do so. The Bill is adapted from Bill No. XVI of 1927 of the Bombay Legislative Council."

Motion put and agreed to.

Amendments to Standing Orders.

President.—Next, Amendments to Standing Orders. Mr. K. T. Mathew is absent.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—There was a committee appointed by the Government to revise the Standing Orders, and a promise was made to place the report before the Council. I would like to know at what stage it stands now.

President.—It is under the consideration of the Government, and we have reached the last stage.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Will it be published and introduced in the next Council? On account of this we could not send further amendments.

Rama Varmha Tampuran.—We shall try our best.

Mr. K. P. Kannan Nayar.—The difficulty is that it stands in our way of introducing further amendments.

Dr. A. G. Menon.—Thinking that our amendments will find a place in the proposed amendments, we are not introducing amendments.

President.—I may say that we are at the last stage, but I cannot say exactly when it will be over. An endeavour will be made to introduce them at the next meeting. The Secretary will please make a note of this.

The following amendments to Standing Orders were considered withdrawn as Mr. K. T. Mathew was absent :—

Mr. K. T. Mathew. — (1) To substitute the words 'fifteen clear days' for the words 'seven days' in Standing Order No. 37 (1) (i).

(2) To omit the words 'the Secretary to the Council (when they are Members of the Council)' and insert there '(when he is a Member of the Council)' in Standing Order No. 66.

(3) To substitute the words 'the President' for the word 'Government' standing between the words 'in such manner as' and 'may determine' in Standing Order No. 66.

(4) To substitute the words 'answered in the list of questions for the ensuing meeting' for the words 'entered in the list of questions for the day,' standing between the words 'shall be' and 'shall be called' in Standing Order No. 11.

Resolutions on Matters of General Public Interest.

4. Prohibition—(*contd.*)

President.—I think, Mr. Salem, you can go on with your speech in connection with the resolution.

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